

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the following paragraph heading and paragraph on page 1, after the title:

Cross-reference to Related Applications

This application is a 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/994,651, filed November 28, 2001, which in turn claims priority to Japanese Application Nos. 2000-361125 and 2000-361126, both filed on November 28, 2000. The entire contents of each of these applications is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 6-22 with the following amended paragraph:

The powdery dispersant is required to have the long-term shelf stability thereof prior to use, that is, the absence of adhesion (pressure resistance) attributable to the pressure in a package and the absence of adhesion and deterioration in dispersibility (humidity resistance) attributable to moisture absorption, but the conventional powdery dispersants, particularly comprising a monovalent metal salt of polycarboxylic acid-based copolymer, are still poor in pressure resistance and humidity resistance. Further, when dry powdering is conducted industrially, it is important that the viscosity of an aqueous solution of starting materials is not increased to such an extent as ~~not~~ to hinder pumping, etc., and further when the powdery dispersant is used in grout mortar, the resulting hydraulic composition just after kneading

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is required to have high flowability and suitable separation resistance, but the conventional dispersants are still not satisfactory for these requirements.